

From: [Jackson, Ryan](#)
To: [Bowman, Liz](#)
Cc: [Ryan Vise](#); [Grantham, Nancy](#); [Coleman, Sam](#); [Gray, David](#); [Forsgren, Lee](#); [Drinkard, Andrea](#); [Greenwalt, Sarah](#); [Wagner, Kenneth](#)
Subject: Re: For Review: First Draft of Water Release
Date: Sunday, September 3, 2017 9:45:21 AM

Go. Thanks.

Ryan Jackson
Chief of Staff
U.S. EPA
(202) 564-6999

On Sep 3, 2017, at 10:30 AM, Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov> wrote:

Great, thank you. Updated below:

STATUS OF WATER SYSTEMS IN AREAS AFFECTED BY HARVEY
WASHINGTON (September 3, 2017) – Working together, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) continue to coordinate with local, state and federal officials to address the human health and environmental impacts of Hurricane Harvey and its aftermath, especially the water systems in the affected areas. As of Saturday, September 2nd, 2017, the following information is available:

<!--[if !supportLists]-->•<!--[endif]-->**Drinking Water:** Half (2300) of the 4500 drinking water systems potentially affected by Harvey have been contacted. Of those: 1757 systems are fully operational, 137 have boil-water notices, and 113 are shut down. The agencies are contacting remaining systems to gather updated information of their status.

Assistance Teams are in the field working directly with system operators to expedite bringing systems back to operational status. Additional drinking water assessments should be up and running within the next day.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->•<!--[endif]-->**Waste Water and Sewage:** Currently, 794 of approximately 2467 wastewater treatment plants are fully operational in the affected counties. The agencies are aware that releases of wastewater from sanitary sewers that is occurring, due to the historic flooding and are actively working to monitor facilities that have reported spills, conduct outreach and provide technical guidance to all other wastewater facilities in flood-impacted areas. EPA and TCEQ are working closely with the U.S. Coast Guard, the Texas Military Department, and other local and state agencies to continuously monitor wastewater systems. Houston's unified command will be up and running shortly to support water testing. Assistance Teams will be deployed to work directly

with system operators to expedite bringing systems back to operational status.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->•<!--[endif]-->**Residential Wells:** EPA is developing a plan for sampling residential wells, and is coordinating with TCEQ to establish several locations where residents can bring water samples from their wells to be tested.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->•<!--[endif]-->**Flood Water:** Water quality sampling will be focused on industrial facilities and hazardous waste sites. Floodwaters contain many hazards, including bacteria and other contaminants. Precautions should be taken by anyone involved in cleanup activities or any others who may be exposed to flood waters. These precautions include heeding all warnings from local and state authorities regarding safety advisories. In addition to the drowning hazards of wading, swimming, or driving in swift floodwaters, these waters can carry large objects that are not always readily visible that can cause injuries to those in the water. Other potential hazards include downed power lines and possible injuries inflicted by animals displaced by the floodwaters.

Additional EPA/TCEQ updates include:

<!--[if !supportLists]-->•<!--[endif]-->**Superfund Sites:** EPA and TCEQ continue to get updates about the status of specific sites from the parties responsible for ongoing cleanup of the sites. The most recent information can be found [here](#).

<!--[if !supportLists]-->•<!--[endif]-->**Air Quality Monitoring:** One of the many preparations for Hurricane Harvey included EPA, TCEQ, and other monitoring entities temporarily removing approximately 75 percent of the stationary air monitoring equipment from the greater Houston, Corpus Christi, and Beaumont areas. Since then, state and local authorities are working to get the systems up and running again. As of Saturday, September 2, over 70 percent of the monitors are up and working again; and authorities expect that the network will be fully operational again by next week. Of the available air monitoring data collected from August 24-September 2, 2017, all measured concentrations were well below levels of health concern. Monitors are showing that air quality at this time is not concerning and local residents should not be concerned about air quality issues related to the effects of the storm.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->•<!--[endif]-->**Fires at Arkema Facility in Crosby, Texas:** EPA and TCEQ are coordinating closely with Harris County Officials along with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and other local public safety officials. As a result of initial chemical fires while the facility was flooded, EPA has collected downstream surface water runoff samples at four locations outside the evacuation zone, near residential areas. EPA will

maintain a 24-hour presence at the incident command operations center near this facility, to support local emergency personnel on the ground. The 1.5 mile radius evacuation zone remains in effect until local emergency response authorities announce it is safe.

• **Refineries/Fuel Waivers:** In addition to waivers for 38 states and D.C., EPA signed four No Action Assurance (NAA) letters on September 1, to help address fuel shortages. NAA will help expedite the distribution of existing gasoline supplies to both Texas and Louisiana, while the refineries work to re-start and resume normal operations. Each is effective until September 15, 2017, and should allow for the distribution in Texas of 10 million or more gallons of gasoline to consumers.

For additional information from TCEQ, please visit:

<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/response/hurricanes>

From: Ryan Vise [<mailto:Ryan.Vise@Tceq.Texas.Gov>]

Sent: Sunday, September 3, 2017 10:25 AM

To: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>

Cc: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Coleman, Sam <Coleman.Sam@epa.gov>; Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>; Forsgren, Lee <Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov>; Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>; Greenwalt, Sarah <greenwalt.sarah@epa.gov>; Wagner, Kenneth <wagner.kenneth@epa.gov>

Subject: Re: For Review: First Draft of Water Release

We can add some more air monitoring:

One of the many preparations for Hurricane Harvey included EPA, TCEQ, and other monitoring entities temporarily removing approximately 75% of the stationary air monitoring equipment from the greater Houston, Corpus Christi, and Beaumont areas. Of the available air monitoring data collected from August 24-September 2, 2017, all measured concentrations were well below levels of health concern.

- More than 70% of the air monitors in Corpus Christi, Houston, and Beaumont have been re-established and are collecting data.

- EPA and TCEQ personnel are assessing monitoring stations in these areas for damage, and bringing them back online as access allows. All air monitoring stations in these areas that are accessible are expected to be back online by [Friday, September 8, 2017](#).

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 3, 2017, at 9:14 AM, Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov> wrote:

I just sent around an updated one –

STATUS OF WATER SYSTEMS IN AREAS AFFECTED BY HARVEY

WASHINGTON (September 3, 2017) – Working together, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) continue to coordinate with local, state and federal officials to address the human health and environmental impacts of Hurricane Harvey and its aftermath, especially the water systems in the affected areas. As of Saturday, September 2nd, 2017, the following information is available:

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<!--[if !supportLists]-->•<!--[endif]-->**Waste Water and Sewage:** Currently, 794 of approximately 2467 wastewater treatment plants are fully operational in the affected counties. The agencies are aware that releases of wastewater from sanitary sewers that is occurring, due to the historic flooding and are actively working to monitor facilities that have reported spills, conduct outreach and provide technical guidance to all other wastewater facilities in flood-impacted areas. EPA and TCEQ are working closely with the U.S. Coast Guard, the Texas Military Department, and other local and state agencies to continuously monitor wastewater systems. Houston's unified command will be up and running shortly to support water testing. Assistance Teams will be deployed to work directly with system operators to expedite bringing systems back to operational status.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->•<!--[endif]-->**Residential Wells:** EPA is developing a plan for sampling residential wells, and is coordinating with TCEQ to establish several locations where residents can bring water samples from their wells to be tested.

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sampling will be focused on industrial facilities and hazardous waste sites. Floodwaters contain many hazards, including bacteria and other contaminants. Precautions should be taken by anyone involved in cleanup activities or any others who may be exposed to flood waters. These precautions include heeding all warnings from local and state authorities regarding safety advisories. In addition to the drowning hazards of wading, swimming, or driving in swift floodwaters, these waters can carry large objects that are not always readily visible that can cause injuries to those in the water. Other potential hazards include downed power lines and possible injuries inflicted by animals displaced by the floodwaters.

Additional EPA/TCEQ updates include:

Superfund Sites: EPA and TCEQ continue to get updates about the status of specific sites from the parties responsible for ongoing cleanup of the sites. The most recent information can be found [here](#).

Air Quality Monitoring: Monitors are showing that air quality at this time is not concerning and local residents should not be concerned about air quality issues related to the effects of the storm. Due to quick action and proper preparation by state and local authorities, all the station ambient air quality monitors in the network from south of Corpus Christi, to Belmont, and all the impacted areas were protected before the storm. Since then, state and local authorities are working to get the systems up and running again. As of Saturday, September 2, over 70 percent of the monitors are up and working again; and authorities expect that the network will be fully operational again by next week.

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evacuation zone remains in effect until local emergency response authorities announce it is safe.

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For additional information from TCEQ, please visit:

<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/response/hurricanes>

From: Grantham, Nancy

Sent: Sunday, September 3, 2017 10:14 AM

To: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Coleman, Sam <Coleman.Sam@epa.gov>

Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Ryan Vise <Ryan.Vise@Tceq.Texas.Gov>; Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>; Forsgren, Lee <Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov>; Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>; Greenwalt, Sarah <greenwalt.sarah@epa.gov>; Wagner, Kenneth <wagner.kenneth@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: For Review: First Draft of Water Release
Eoc hq water desk looking at this quickly .. thanks ng

Nancy Grantham

Office of Public Affairs

US Environmental Protection Agency

202-564-6879 (desk)

202-253-7056 (mobile)

From: Jackson, Ryan

Sent: Sunday, September 03, 2017 9:54 AM

To: Coleman, Sam <Coleman.Sam@epa.gov>

Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Ryan Vise <Ryan.Vise@Tceq.Texas.Gov>; Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>; Forsgren, Lee <Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov>; Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Greenwalt, Sarah <greenwalt.sarah@epa.gov>; Wagner, Kenneth <wagner.kenneth@epa.gov>

Subject: Re: For Review: First Draft of Water Release
Let's go ahead with this release and we can supplement trailer information later.

Is there a link to the superfund site information which can be included in this? We need to go ahead and send.

Ryan Jackson
Chief of Staff
U.S. EPA
(202) 564-6999

On Sep 3, 2017, at 9:51 AM, Coleman, Sam <Coleman.Sam@epa.gov> wrote:

No fire overnight trailers are smoldering but not burning. As of 30 min ago.

Samuel Coleman, P.E.
Deputy Regional Administrator
EPA Region 6
coleman.sam@epa.gov
214.665.2100 Ofc
214.665.3110 Direct
214.789.2016 Cell

From: Bowman, Liz
Sent: Sunday, September 03, 2017 8:49 AM
To: Ryan Vise <Ryan.Vise@Tceq.Texas.Gov>
Cc: Coleman, Sam <Coleman.Sam@epa.gov>; Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>; Forsgren, Lee <Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov>; Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Greenwalt, Sarah <greenwalt.sarah@epa.gov>; Wagner, Kenneth <wagner.kenneth@epa.gov>; Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: For Review: First Draft of Water Release
Thank you all, I am mocking this up to go out shortly with everyone's edits. I haven't heard anything additional about the Arkema fire, so I think we can still send this out this morning.

From: Ryan Vise [<mailto:Ryan.Vise@Tceq.Texas.Gov>]
Sent: Sunday, September 3, 2017 8:04 AM
To: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Cc: Coleman, Sam <Coleman.Sam@epa.gov>; Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>; Forsgren, Lee <Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov>; Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Greenwalt, Sarah

<greenwalt.sarah@epa.gov>; Wagner, Kenneth
<wagner.kenneth@epa.gov>; Jackson, Ryan
<jackson.ryan@epa.gov>

Subject: Re: For Review: First Draft of Water Release
Looks good, One minor suggestion re: Arkema.
I don't know if we should mention the controlled burn since
it hasn't been reschedule.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 3, 2017, at 7:00 AM, Bowman, Liz
<Bowman.Liz@epa.gov> wrote:

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 3, 2017, at 3:06 AM, Coleman, Sam
<Coleman.Sam@epa.gov> wrote:

A couple of situational
changes:

STATUS OF WATER
SYSTEMS IN AREAS
AFFECTED BY HARVEY
WASHINGTON (September 3,
2017) – Working together, the
U.S. Environmental Protection
Agency (EPA) and the Texas
Commission on Environmental
Quality (TCEQ) continue to
coordinate with local, state and
federal officials to address the
human health and
environmental impacts of
Hurricane Harvey and its
aftermath, especially the water
systems in the affected areas.
As of Saturday, September 2nd,
2017, the following information
is available:

<!--[if !supportLists]-->●<!--

[endif]-->**Drinking**

Water: Of the approximately **4512** drinking water systems in the affected area, 1757 systems are fully operational, 98 are partially operational, with a “boil water” notice, and 49 continue to have outages. The agencies are contacting 189 systems to gather updated information of their status. **Assistance Teams are in the field working directly with system operators to expedite bringing systems back to operational status.**

Additional drinking water assessments should be up and running within the next day.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->•<!--

[endif]-->**Waste Water**

and Sewage: Currently, 794 of approximately **2467** wastewater treatment plants are fully operational in the affected counties. The agencies are aware that releases of wastewater from sanitary sewers that is occurring, due to the historic flooding and are actively working to monitor facilities that

have reported spills, conduct outreach and provide technical guidance to all other wastewater facilities in flood-impacted areas. EPA and TCEQ are working closely with the U.S. Coast Guard, the Texas Military Department, and other local and state agencies to continuously monitor wastewater systems. Houston's unified command will be up and running shortly to support water testing. Assistance Teams will be deployed to work directly with system operators to expedite bringing systems back to operational status.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->•<!--
[endif]-->**Residential Wells:** EPA is developing a plan for sampling residential wells, and is coordinating with TCEQ to establish several locations where residents can bring water samples from their wells to be tested.

NOTE: We need to start this process asap

<!--[if !supportLists]-->•<!--
[endif]-->**Critical Water Infrastructure:** The agencies are continuing

to work closely with the dams. The larger dams are full in many cases, and may be releasing water, the structures are secure at this time.

NOTE: USACE is responsible for the two large dams that are getting a lot of Media attention Addicks, and Barker

<!--[if !supportLists]-->•<!--

[endif]-->**Flood Water:**
Water quality sampling will be focused on industrial facilities and hazardous waste sites.

Floodwaters contain many hazards, including bacteria and other contaminants.

Precautions should be taken by anyone involved in cleanup activities or any others who may be exposed to flood waters. These precautions include heeding all warnings from local and state authorities regarding safety advisories. In

addition to the drowning hazards of wading, swimming, or driving in swift floodwaters, these waters can carry large objects that are not always readily visible

that can cause injuries to those in the water. Other potential hazards include downed power lines and possible injuries inflicted by animals displaced by the floodwaters.

Additional EPA/TCEQ updates include:

<!--[if !supportLists]-->•<!--

[endif]-->**Superfund**

Sites: EPA and TCEQ continue to get updates about the status of specific sites from the parties responsible for ongoing cleanup of the sites. The most recent information can be found [here](#).

<!--[if !supportLists]-->•<!--

[endif]-->**Air Quality**

Monitoring: Monitors are showing that air quality at this time is not concerning and local residents should not be concerned about air quality issues related to the effects of the storm. Due to quick action and proper preparation by [State and local](#) authorities, all the station ambient air quality monitors in the network from south of Corpus Christi, to Belmont, and all the impacted areas were

protected before the storm. Since then, state and local authorities are working to get the systems up and running again. As of Saturday, September 2, over 70 percent of the monitors are up and working again; and authorities expect that the network will be fully operational again by next week.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->•<!--

[endif]-->**Fires at**

Arkema Facility in

Crosby, Texas: EPA and

TCEQ are coordinating

closely with Harris

County Officials along

with the U.S.

Department of

Homeland Security, and

other local public safety

officials. Due to the

increased risk of

unpredictable fires at

the remaining trailers,

experts on the ground

decided that the best

course of action was to

ignite a controlled fire

for the remaining

trailers on Saturday

evening, September 2nd.

However, at

approximately this

approach was

suspended because the

trailers began to

smolder and are

expected to
spontaneously ignite.
As a result of initial
chemical fires while the
facility was flooded, EPA
has collected
downstream surface
water runoff samples at
four locations outside
the evacuation zone,
near residential areas. In
addition, EPA will
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announce it is safe.

For additional information from
TCEQ, please visit:

<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/response/hurricanes>

Sorry this is so late. Had to sleep.

Samuel Coleman, P.E.

Deputy Regional Administrator

EPA Region 6

coleman.sam@epa.gov

214.665.2100 Ofc

214.665.3110 Direct

214.789.2016 Cell

From: Bowman, Liz

Sent: Saturday, September 02,
2017 8:48 PM

To: Coleman, Sam

<Coleman.Sam@epa.gov>; Ryan

Vise

<Ryan.Vise@Tceq.Texas.Gov>;

Gray, David
<gray.david@epa.gov>; Forsgren,
Lee <Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov>;
Drinkard, Andrea
<Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>;
Grantham, Nancy
<Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>;
Greenwalt, Sarah
<greenwalt.sarah@epa.gov>;
Wagner, Kenneth
<wagner.kenneth@epa.gov>
Cc: Jackson, Ryan
<jackson.ryan@epa.gov>

Subject: For Review: First Draft of
Water Release

Below, please find a first draft
of a release on the status of
water systems in the Harvey
affected area. I highlighted the
areas where I need some help
with numbers. Please review
this and let me know if you have
thoughts or edits. This is just a
first draft and I am a little tired,
so edits are welcome. **The goal
is to get this out first thing
tomorrow morning.** Thank you
– Liz

STATUS OF WATER
SYSTEMS IN AREAS
AFFECTED BY HARVEY
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Wells: EPA is developing a plan for sampling and monitoring residential wells, and is coordinating with TCEQ to provide updates to the community on the status of water from residential well water.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->•<!--

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Infrastructure: The agencies are continuing to work closely with the dams; some of the smaller dam systems have failed; while all the large water dams are full and may be releasing water, the structures seem to be secure at this time.

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evacuation zone, near

residential areas. EPA

will continue to take

additional samples of

the flood water in the

vicinity of the plant, to

document changes in

the concentration of

chemicals. In addition,

EPA will maintain a 24-

hour presence at the

incident command

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this facility, to support
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TCEQ, please visit:

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Liz Bowman

U.S. Environmental Protection
Agency (EPA)

Office: 202-564-3293